STOKE NEWINGTON AND HACKNEY

DEFENCE CAMPAIGN

PRESS STATEMENT 2 18TH NOVEMBER 1983

HOME OFFICE COVERS FOR RACIST SCREW BRUTALITY

Following yesterdays unprovoked assault on Black Pentonville prisoner Cirus Noor, it has become clear that the home office is colluding with the prison authorities in trying to quell the growing interest and outcry over this incident.

Throughout yesterday evening and last night Pentonville told callers that they had no comment and that it was an 'internal matter'.

Last night Brian Sedgemore, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, was told by a 'senior member of the board of visitors' that Cirus was in his cell not the hospital wing, had been seen by an orderly, was OK and that 5 minutes after he was told to finish off his visit he refused saying 'you'll have to take me'.

Hammersmith and Fulham Councillor Joseph Mirwitch was told by the Governor of Pentonville that he totally denies these 'malicious rumours which are being spread for political reasons'. He is aggrieved that it was said 30 wardens were involved when he doesn't have 30. Councillor Mirwitoh was told he'd be welcome to visit the prison .... just write in .... it could be arranged for 2 MONTHS TIME!!!!

Ace Kelly, chair of Stoke Newington & Hackney Defence Campaign, was told by a Mr Ian Porter of the Home Office (828 9848 ext 478), when making inquiries, 'who said he'd been assaulted'? Porter was told by Ace this was reliable information, to this he replied 'to be fair to other prisoners visits must be limited to 30 minutes .. .. Mr Noor had refused to leave after 45 minutes and was removed'. Asked why 30 wardens were involved, Porter denied the number then said after being confronted with the fact that Ace was an eye witness said the number of wardens involved depends on circumstances 'such as the size of the man'!!! Porter added that Cirus had a medical examination and had 'no injuries at all'. LBC reporter Nigel Sweaterton was told by the Home Office that someone of 'governor grade' had visited Cirus and he had 'no injuries at all'. Again Terry O'Halloran, freelance journalist, was told by Porter that when asked about injuries Cirus replied 'NOT AT ALL' which sounds to O'Halloran more like a 'do you wish to complain' which to the men in these institutions is the same as 'do you have any injuries'. If a prisoners complaint fails he is liable to disciplinary proceedings under the infamous Rule 4.7.

After Cirus' visit today from his barrister Sarah Forster the depths of prison authorities and home office lies became absolutely clear. She told Ace Kelly that Cirus has got 'extensive bruising over his body .... some clearly boot marks .... his face was saved by his hands but his left eye is blacked'. Cirus is now to be charged with attempted assault.

We call on everyone to write to the Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, Home Office, Queen Anns Gate, SW1 and to the Governor of HM Prison Pentonville, Caledonian Road, N7 condemning these assaults and demanding that no charges be made against Cirus Noor and if any have already been made that these should be dropped

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EYE WITNESS ACCOUNT OF PRISON WARDEN BRUTALITY

Cirus Noor is a defendant from the Colin Roach Campaign, currently being held in HM Prison Pentonville, London N7. Ace Kelly, chair of the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, visited Cirus Noor today and this is what he saw:

"At the end of the visit we were asked by a warden to finish off. Cirus drank down his ½ cup of coffee and started on his other. The warden returned and said come on, time up and you leave too. Cirus pointed out that he would soon finish. They said leave or we'll put you out, to this Cirus rose and said he'd finish his coffee and then leave. More wardens joined and threatened to physically take him out. By now the 3 wardens involved were becoming very aggressive, standing close by, leaning across the table, pointing their fingers in his face, meanwhile others joined. Cirus rose again and politely said he was nearly finished. I pointed out that for ½ a minute it wasn't worth the aggro. Before we knew what had happened Cirus was rushed by at least 5 officers, he was pushed straight on top of a table, to the chairs, to the floor. At the same time my right arm was grabbed, I pulled loose and told them to lay off only to find I was myself surrounded by wardens. At this stage at least 25 prison wardens came charging in straight over to Cirus on the floor, I saw fists and feet going in, where they connected I don't know but Cirus was carried out horizontally, I could only see his left leg, he wasn't moving. Another lot of prison wardens had formed a cordon around the other prisoners and their visitors. I was escorted from the prison to the main road by 6 wardens who once I was out shouted abuse".

The prison has refused to give the Defence Campaign any information on Cirus's condition. We have got nowhere with the home office either.

None the less we initiated a campaign of phone calls from press, councillors, MP's, groups and individuals to the prison, to ensure that the wardens know Cirus has support outside and inflict no further brutality.

HMP. Pentonville 609:1121

Cirus appears at the Old Bailey on Monday 21 November charged with "attempting to petrol bomb Bethnal Green police station" He pleads not guilty.

Appeal for witnesses : to any of the visitors who saw the above incident please contact us at the phone number below.We intend to take action.

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